Keswick, The Quarters
Huguenot vicinity
Powhatan County
Virginia

HABS VA-85-B

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

VA
72-Hug.V
18-

THE QUARTERS
KESWICK
Powhatan County, Virginia

Owner: Tuckahoe Hill Corporation, Julien H. Hill, President

Date of Erection:

Architect: Not known

Builder: Believed to be Major John Clarke

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: The wall and chimney are brick, common bond.

The original floor, probably wood, is gone and only an earth floor remained until about thres years ago when a wood floor was laid. At about the same time a new shingle roof was put on.

A gallery which extended entirely around the inside of the building against the wall is gone, the only evidence of its having existed being the indications on the wall and the testimony of persons who saw it. There are evidences of there having been a plaster ceiling which is gone.

New sash replace the former ones, and the blinds have disappeared.

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: The exterior face brick from four courses above grade up to the cornice are laid in lime mortar. Elsewhere the mortar is of a most unusual character, in appsarance and hardness strongly resembling rusty iron. The same mortar was used in the foundations of other brick buildings and a frame barn on the premises. It was evidently used like ordinary mortar with the joints neatly cut or struck with a trowel.

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A report on the approximate constituents of this mortar follows:

Sand	26%
Limonite	61%

The 15% remainder is composed of clay, 5%; lime and magnesia, 3%; and moisture, 5%, all occurring as impurities in the sand or iron ore used in making the mortar.

Limonite is a hydrated oxide of iron containing about 15% of combined water, and occurs as thin beds in the sand and gravel deposits in Tidewater Virginia. Perhaps this material, either with or without an admixture of sand naturally occurring with it was roasted and pulverized. On the addition of water it resumed its former state of a hydrated material and acted as a cement to bind the sand into mortar. Organic binders may have been used for this purpose also, as there was apparently soot or other carbonaceous material present in traces. (Authority: Shreve Clark, Testing Engineer, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Highways.)

Author: Eugene Bradley

Approved: _____